



## Fisherman enjoy their first celebration of their annual day at the new Hadicurari Center

An annual event that for years brought many Arubans to the Hadicurari center between the Marriott Resort and MooMba Beach returned to its beloved venue with a new home. International Day of Fishermen is June 29, and on Sunday, the Ministry of Culture, Labor, and Sport hosted a festive event that witnessed a record number of thirty-one fishing boats taking to the sea for the traditional fishing contest that is an integral portion of the event.

Music, dancing, booths offering regional cuisine, and a prodigious consumption of beer is also a traditional part the day, and as the fisher-folk begin returning around noon, admiration of their catches become more effusive in proportion to the number beers imbibed. Also awaiting the returning fishermen were customers eager to buy their catch, and many restaurants served very fresh fish that night.

Byron Boekhoudt of the Coastal Zone Management acted as Master of Ceremonies for the awarding of prizes for the biggest catch. Minister of Culture, Labor, and Sport, Ramon Lee, attended the gathering, and began the award ceremony by first honoring two icons for the fishing community, Jan Semeleer and Claudio “Cadochi” Wolff. Both were instrumental in island fishermen keeping their center at Hadicurari after the construction of the Marriott Surf Club, and actively work to preserve fishing tradition and pass it down to successive generations.

Awards were presented in two categories for first, second and third place. Division B is defined as teams on standard fishing boats, and Division A are teams that fish on the classic old-fashioned native boats, usually with hand held lines, an art the ministry encourages the island’s fishermen to maintain. Winners in the “B” division in first, second and third place were Time to Fish of Captain Topo, with a total catch of 51.5 kilos (113.3 lbs,) Dindrick tur Dia captained by Pedro Bislip with 50.8 kilos (111.8,) and Linda tur Dia, Chin Kelly captain, with 47 kilos (103.4.) Winners of the “A” class division were Viagra Boys, captained by Ido Kelly in first place with 43.5 kilos (95.7 lbs,) Gasta Haas Gang, Randy Paskel captain, took second place with 35.2 kilos (77.44) and Picuda Boys won third place under Captain Jacinto Cristiaans with 34 kilos (74.8) total haul.

First place winners took home a check for 1000 Arubian florins, cases of beer and malta, and bottles of Old Parr Whiskey. Second place winners received checks of 500 florins, cases of beer, malta and bottles of J & B. third place winners received 300 florin prizes, beer and malta, and bottles of Conchi y Toro sparking white wine. Robert Danje, Captain of The Sea Eagles, was awarded a plaque and check for 200 florins for catching the largest fish of the day, a 19 kilo (41.8 lb) grouper.

It was a delightful gathering for fishing community and their families, and old and honored tradition on Aruba. Byron Boekhoudt thanked the many sponsors that made the day possible, including Foundation Lotto pa Deporte, Tropical Bottling, Romar Trading, N.V., SETAR N.V., WEMA, Moises de Marchena & Sons, Marriott Vacation Club, and Hadicurai Restaurant.